

Specification:

Please replace the paragraph that was previously added before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1, which starts with “The present invention relates”, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 and is a U.S. national stage application of claims the priority to the International Application No. PCT/IB2003/000794 PCT/IB2003/00794, entitled “Watermark Time Scale Searching,” filed February 26, 2003, and claims the priority thereof. International Application No. PCT/IB2003/00794 claims priority to European Application No. 02076202.7, entitled “Watermark Time Scale Searching,” filed March 28, 2002.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Preferably, said buffer is of total length M, the total number of scale searches~~
number of scale searches conducted is $N_{\eta} = \frac{M}{2}(\eta_{\max} - \eta_{\min})$ where η_{\min} , η_{\max} correspond respectively to the minimum and maximum likely time scale modifications of the signal.